

**REMARKS**

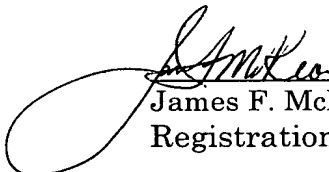
Entry of the amendments to the specification and abstract before examination of the application is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions regarding this Preliminary Amendment or this application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

It is respectfully requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response and shortages in other fees, be charged, or any overpayment in fees be credited, to the Account of Crowell & Moring, LLP, P.L.L.C., Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket No. 056203.49700C2).

Respectfully submitted,

January 23, 2004

  
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